

NOTES ON A FEW BOMBYCOID MOTHS FROM
GRANT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO.

By T. D. A. COCKERELL.

In the Entomological Collection of the New Mexico Experiment Station, I find a box of specimens labelled Grant County, N. M. They were, I believe, collected by Mr. W. J. Howard, and received by the N. M. College from the Hon. W. G. Rich. The Bombycoïd moths in the box belong to four species, as named below.

Daritis thetis *Klug.*.—This species was introduced to our fauna by Mr. H. Edwards in Dec. 1886, on the strength of two specimens taken in New Mexico by Mr. Wilson Howard. The locality was not precisely indicated, and the specimens were made the types of a new var. *howardi*. Mr. Dyar tells me that he has not heard of any other examples of this variety. The specimen from Grant Co. is probably best referred to var. *howardi*, having the secondaries decidedly ochre-yellow on the disc; but the bands on the primaries are white with only a faint creamy tinge.

Alypioides crescens (*Walker*) var.* Differing from the type in having the secondaries entirely without the yellow patch above, although the fringe is partly yellow. On the underside of the secondaries the yellow patch appears as an elongated mark, 2 mm. long. Expanse, 46 mm. I sent an account of this specimen to Mr. Dyar, and he informs me that he has seen none like it.

Cymbalophora proxima *Guèr.*, var.?—I had taken this for a form of *phyllira*, but Mr. Dyar, to whom I sent some account of it, urges that it must rather be *proxima*. In this he is doubtless correct, as it agrees sufficiently well with the description of that species, except that the last segment of the abdomen is by no means wholly black above, the lateral tufts being pale ochreous. The second line is wanting above the longitudinal streak, except for a small mark on the costa. The ground color of the hind wings is pale creamy. Expanse, 36 mm.

Arachnis zuni *Newm.*.—One specimen, which I take to be a male, agrees with the figure in Journ. N. Y. Ent. Soc., Vol. 1, Pl. 1, f. 2. A second example, doubtless a female, differs considerably. Mr.

* This is *Alypioides bimaculata* H.-S. (= *Alypia trimaculata* Boisd., Kirby's Catalogue, p. 34) from Mexico. I think this is the first record of its occurrence in the United States.

Harrison G. Dyar.

Dyar tells me that the type specimen of this species is the only one hitherto known, and consequently a description of the ♀ is desirable.

A. zuni, ♀. Expanse, 61 mm. Primaries as in ♂, but the two innermost white marks on inferior margin not confluent, and the fourth grey band leaving the costa much more obliquely, so that its distal angle with the costa is much less than a right angle. In both of these points my male agrees with the figured type, and differs from the ♀. The markings in the ♀ are also darker. Secondaries fringed with dark grey; their ground-colour pale yellowish, with three broad transverse brownish grey bands, each margined with black. The first of these bands is nearly straight; the other two sinuous, especially the second, which is twice bent about its middle. Underside much like the upper, but base of wings, especially along the costa, suffused with yellow.

Although the sexual differences are thus considerable, it would be quite unreasonable to regard the ♀ specimen as a distinct species. As Mr. Dyar remarks, similar sexual differences are known in other species of the genus.

FLORIDA FIELD NOTES.

By ANNIE TRUMBULL SLOSSON.

I was examining one of the pitcher plants (*Sarracenia variolaris*) in Jacksonville, Fla., this spring in search of insects. As I took one of the strange trumpet-shaped leaves in my fingers to tear it open, out darted a blackish *Megachile*, buzzed about my head and flew away. In the leaf I found a cell nearly completed, about half an inch in length. It was made of circular bits of the leaves of *Rhexia lutea*, quite plentiful in the vicinity. I do not remember any member of this genus or neighboring genera as being included in the various lists of insects frequenting this plant.

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At Punta Gorda last winter the "baskets" of *Oiketicus abbotii* were very numerous on various trees and shrubs. Upon one "Japanese plum" tree they hung by hundreds, sometimes one small twig would hold eight or more, hanging not half an inch apart. Orange and lemon trees were sometimes completely defoliated by the larvæ. I gathered thirty or more of the cases containing living larvæ and kept them in a large paper-box with mosquito-netting over the top. They make very interesting pets, eating well in captivity and adding to the decorations of their singular cases from time to time. They even tore bits of paper from the lining of the box, and pieces of the netting, fastening them to their baskets. I secured from these many of the moths